



A VIEW FROM THE CAB

It was very hard to write this piece without sounding very tired.

While the rest of December still looms with 5-weeks of Winterfest coverage to consider and my own preparations for a trip to Florida, I am certainly relieved that the Eastern Shore Train, Toy, & Hobby Show is behind us. We packed everything Monday morning, with Doc, Bob Schadewald and Phil Longo driving the trailers and Ray Henberger, John Raleigh, and Myself helping load and pack.

This year's show was unfortunately a much lesser success but there were a lot more vendors. Our club netted about \$2,700 in total sales, including raffles and shirts sold, but attendance was less than half of last year. In all, our net proceeds were \$5,698. We know the train show business is a fickle thing, but this was not nearly as good as we had hoped. A lot of effort goes into this event, and for me and several others the trip there is more than an hour each way.

This year we have seen tremendous changes to our club. The large and very generous donations have put a great amount of pressure on several individuals. It is always difficult to maintain a positive and active staff in a volunteer-based organization, and we have put a heavy load on a few people. I for one have felt stressed during the past two weeks, culminating in the above-mentioned Train Show. If I had the time to calculate the man hours that went into this show, I would be honored and horrified at the same time.

We might be facing a decision point in 2026. Our **ebay** sales program is working very well. For two months of operations on **ebay**, we earned over \$6,000. If we average \$3,000/month, \$36,000 pays our rent! After that, operating costs are mostly electricity and heating fuel. Things to consider. Yard Sales have been very lucrative and very easy to prepare and execute. This year, we earned nearly \$8,000 combined at yard sales.

We are in the final 6 months of our current lease. We have heard there is a contract to purchase the property we lease but the sale is contingent upon another property sale. The target settlement date is January 31st. We do not know what will happen if that purchase fails. If it proceeds, the new owner wants our building for another purpose and wants us to move to the larger yellow building, which is in very poor condition. So, 2026 could be another big year for the club.

John Hodges



Merry Christmas!

**Happy Holidays, and Best
Wishes for the New Year!**



Eastern Shore Train, Toy & Hobby Show



The 2nd Annual Edition of the Eastern Shore Train, Toy, and Hobby Show was held at the Ocean City, Maryland Convention Center on November 28-30, 2025. While the total revenue generated from this year's show was less than that from the inaugural event, it was still a substantial fundraiser for the Delaware Seaside Railroad Club and the Ocean City Beach Patrol. A special shoutout and thankyou goes out to all the volunteers that made this year's show happen. And congratulations to the Shore Boyz Railroad Club who just completed their newly reimagined Mobile Display 2.0 which was a featured attraction at the show.



Having Fun Running Trains at the Winterfest of Lights



*Winterfest
of Lights* 

Winterfest is Open from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Wednesday to Sunday, thru December 21st, and then Daily from December 22nd to New Year's Eve



There are still plenty of slots open to volunteer as an engineer and join the fun. Contact John if you can help: jchodges46@verizon.net